

the whole way to hear about three days in  
the week - I am also obliged for the present  
to give up dining out and have had but a  
dull Christmas time of it alone at home  
a couple of days frost in the first half of  
December seemed to promise a severe winter  
through about London (unlike the north)  
it was not enough to allow any skating  
and about a fortnight ago it suddenly  
gave way to warm very wet weather  
which has continued ever since

The Hooders have been spending  
Xmas at the Hodgkins in Gloucestershire  
but return to Kew tomorrow. I will  
mention to him what you say about  
Mhrabili and Oxybaphus

I have had some useful correspondence  
with Hackel of P. Potten on Gramineae at  
which he has been working very carefully

25, WILTON PLACE.  
London S.W.

Jan<sup>y</sup> 1/83

My dear Gray

I was just taking up the pen  
to write to you to express my anxiety to  
hear something of you and Mr Gray after  
so long a silence when your kind and  
most friendly letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> had reached  
me as a most welcome New Year's greeting  
I had heard of your accident but I very  
soon also heard that you were getting the  
better of it without any serious consequences  
and I had the pleasure of seeing your  
handwriting in the direction of one or two  
brochures - and only a few days ago of  
your interesting account of the enormous

increase of the known flora of N. America.

I do hope that we may now see material progress in your great flora.

One thing prevented my writing sooner was my anxiety not to interrupt the preparation of the *Genera Plantarum*. You will have observed by the sheets sent to you that the printing has been steadily going on since May at the rate of one sheet per week - I cannot persuade the printers to go on more rapidly - and after the first proofs the process of revising and printing off is rather a slow one - the *Cyperaceae* are now almost all in type and the *Gramineae* were sent to the printers a fortnight ago so that we begin

to see the end. We add a few of the most important *addenda et corrigenda* to the volume - We are urged to prepare a Supplement to the whole work but that is more than I can undertake as to my part I believe that nearly 300 new genera have been proposed as belonging to the first two volumes and some orders will require much re-working for which I do not feel at all disposed. I have no reason to complain of my health considering that I am in my 83<sup>d</sup> year but I have lost much within the last twelve months - a whooping cough has grown much upon me and since this winter has set in to find the walk over New Bridge from the station too much for me and I only drive down

and has been doing the condensation  
for the great Flora Brasiliensis which I  
trust will be a great improvement on the  
other tribes so poorly worked up by Doell.  
- but I cannot cater into Haeckel's Germanic  
speculations on the successive evolution of  
different groups of certain species. On the  
whole I admit that many good objections  
may be made to several approximations  
and severances I have made in the  
generic arrangement of Foraminifera - but  
I have been unable to improve it without  
giving rise to at least equally serious  
objections.

With my warmest wishes that  
you and Mr Gray may enjoy a happy  
New Year in health strength and activity  
believe me always  
yours most affectionately  
George Reuther